

Union Calendar No. 98

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 255

[Report No. 116-134]

To provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2019

Mr. COOK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

JUNE 27, 2019

Additional sponsor: Mr. AGUILAR

JUNE 27, 2019

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Big Bear Land Ex-
5 change Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means the
9 County of San Bernardino, California.

10 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
11 means the approximately 73 acres of Federal land
12 administered by the Forest Service generally de-
13 picted as “Federal Land Proposed for Exchange” on
14 the Map.

15 (3) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Fed-
16 eral land” means the approximately 71 acres owned
17 by the County generally depicted as “Non-Federal
18 Land Proposed for Exchange” on the Map.

19 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Agriculture.

21 (5) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map ti-
22 tled “Big Bear Land Exchange” and dated August
23 6, 2018.

1 **SEC. 3. EXCHANGE OF LAND; EQUALIZATION OF VALUE.**

2 (a) EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to valid exist-
3 ing rights and the terms of this Act, no later than one
4 year after the date that the portion of the Pacific Crest
5 National Scenic Trail is relocated in accordance with sub-
6 section (h), if the County offers to convey the non-Federal
7 land to the United States, the Secretary shall—

8 (1) convey to the County all right, title, and in-
9 terest of the United States in and to the Federal
10 land; and

11 (2) accept from the County a conveyance of all
12 right, title, and interest of the County in and to the
13 non-Federal land.

14 (b) EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.—

15 (1) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—The land ex-
16 change under this section shall be for equal value,
17 or the values shall be equalized by a cash payment
18 as provided for under this subsection or an adjust-
19 ment in acreage. At the option of the County, any
20 excess value of the non-Federal lands may be consid-
21 ered a gift to the United States.

22 (2) CASH EQUALIZATION PAYMENT.—The
23 County may equalize the values of the lands to be
24 exchanged under this section by cash payment with-
25 out regard to any statutory limit on the amount of
26 such a cash equalization payment.

1 (3) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FUNDS RECEIVED
2 FROM COUNTY.—Any cash equalization payment re-
3 ceived by the Secretary under this subsection shall
4 be deposited in the fund established under Public
5 Law 90–171 (16 U.S.C. 484a; commonly known as
6 the Sisk Act). The funds so deposited shall remain
7 available to the Secretary, until expended, for the
8 acquisition of lands, waters, and interests in land for
9 the San Bernardino National Forest.

10 (c) APPRAISAL.—The Secretary shall complete an ap-
11 praisal of the land to be exchanged under subsection (a)
12 in accordance with—

13 (1) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Fed-
14 eral Land Acquisitions; and

15 (2) the Uniform Standards of Professional Ap-
16 praisal Practice.

17 (d) TITLE APPROVAL.—Title to the land to be ex-
18 changed under this Act shall be in a format acceptable
19 to the Secretary and the County.

20 (e) SURVEY OF NON-FEDERAL LANDS.—Before com-
21 pleting the exchange under this Act, the Secretary shall
22 inspect the non-Federal lands to ensure that the land
23 meets Federal standards, including hazardous materials
24 and land line surveys.

1 (f) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of con-
2 veyance, any costs related to the exchange under this sec-
3 tion shall be paid by the County.

4 (g) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LANDS.—The Sec-
5 retary shall manage the non-Federal land acquired under
6 this section in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911
7 (16 U.S.C. 480 et seq.; commonly known as the Weeks
8 Act), and other laws and regulations pertaining to Na-
9 tional Forest System lands.

10 (h) PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL RELO-
11 CATION.—No later than three years after the date of en-
12 actment of this Act, the Secretary, in accordance with ap-
13 plicable laws, shall relocate the portion of the Pacific Crest
14 National Scenic Trail located on the Federal land to—

- 15 (1) adjacent National Forest System land;
16 (2) land owned by the County, subject to Coun-
17 ty approval;
18 (3) land within the Federal land, subject to
19 County approval; or
20 (4) a combination of paragraphs (1), (2), and
21 (3).

22 (i) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon as
23 practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act,
24 the Secretary shall finalize a map and legal descriptions
25 of all land to be conveyed under this Act. The Secretary

1 may correct any minor errors in the map or in the legal
2 descriptions. The map and legal descriptions shall be on
3 file and available for public inspection in appropriate of-
4 fices of the Forest Service.

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